



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC DMV WORKER SENTENCED FOR THEFT

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Wendy Gaskins, age 40, of West Columbia, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A). United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie imposed the sentence. Gaskins was also ordered to pay restitution of approximately \$260,000.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Gaskins was a Project Manager in the Capital Improvements Department of the SC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Between February 2009 and June 2010, she embezzled approximately \$300,000 from the DMV, some of which was federal

funding. Approximately \$40,000 of that amount eventually went toward DMV projects, and the rest was diverted to Gaskins' personal benefit.

J. Creech Construction and Inspection was nominally a company controlled by Gaskins that supposedly performed work at DMV sites and was paid for such work. Gaskins held the position at the DMV that approved completed work by vendors, and she approved the Creech invoices.

Gaskins sent procurement paperwork to the DMV on behalf of Creech. She then used her state computer to generate invoices. The checks were sent to Creech through a UPS Store box controlled by Gaskins. Gaskins spent the money on home renovations and paying off her mortgage.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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